

mostly consuming their own produced staple foods.

Zimbabwe







SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY UPDATE MAY 2011

The preliminary findings of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment show that the agricultural sector is the most affected by the heavy rains. It is Lesotho anticipated that in the second half of the year food security will deteriorate significantly. In the South, harvest of maize and peanuts was good compared to last year. **Madagascar** Price of fuel has risen by 2%. Harvesting of maize crops have started throughout the country and another maize production surplus is expected for the current main harvest. Malawi Pockets of food insecurity will persist in northern Malawi due to heavy rains and late-season flooding which occurred in march and April Overall national crop production is expected to be normal given the good harvest prospects of the northern region. Mozambique Prices of food products are decreasing in most markets. • Water levels continue to recede and are presently stabilizing **Namibia** • Some displaced people are beginning to return to their villages The expected production of maize is 11,044 million tons, which is 13.8% less than the 12,815 million tons in the previous season. South Africa Swaziland received the Letter of Comfort from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to facilitate the securing of a US\$143 million (SZL1 billion) loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to inject into government coffers **Swaziland** Fuel prices goes up again in May: Petrol increased by SZL 0.70 per litre and diesel by SZL 0.80 per litre The country has recorded another bumper harvest during the 2010/11 season recording a surplus of 1,661,626 MT. The increase has largely been attributed to increase in the area planted for small and medium scale farmers. **Z**ambia Prices for the staple food commodities have remained low due to reduced demand on the markets as most populations across the country are

2010-11 maize production is reportedly 9% up from the 2009-10 production while small grain production is down 19.5%.

Some 42 out of 60 rural districts in the country will not meet their cereal requirements for the 2011-12 consumption year











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: LESOTHO

Updated - May 2011

- The PDNA preliminary findings show that Lesotho will likely to face food insecurity in the second half of 2011
- Lesotho is preparing for the launch of the CAADP Compact Implementation Plan, scheduled for the 26th May 2011

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 Actual cumulative rainfall from September 2010 is above normal across the country. The rainfall received in December and January was the highest recorded rainfall since 1933. This year, crop production is expected to be poor following the heavy rains received between December and February. Field operations, especially weeding was low particularly in the northern region due to persistent rains and water-logging. Crop forecasting exercise by the Bureau of Statistics has been completed and analysis is ongoing. PDNA preliminary results show that the crop production this year is poor. The agricultural sector was the most affected by the heavy rains 	According to the NEWU balance sheet, planned imports for the 2010/11 season amounted to 230.170 MT. This leaves the country with uncovered shortfall of about 79,286MT	 Prices of fuel increased significantly on the 8th April 2011. Compared to prices in March, there is an increase of 4.8% in petrol prices, 6.6% increase in diesel prices and 6.2% increase in paraffin prices (Petroleum Fund). Although fuel prices have increased significantly, prices of maize meal in Maseru (town) remained stable throughout March into May The Bureau of Statistics showed that the inflation in January stood at 3.3%, just slightly above 3.2% reported in January. In January, the inflation increased to 4.5% and in February to 4.7% Based on the mid February projections by the VAC, about 250,000 people will need food support in the next 12 months as a result of the heavy rains. 	 The Government-led rapid assessment indicated that the cases of diarrhoea are high due to contamination of water and poor sanitation. The World Vision study on the impact of heavy rains shows that water systems that served over 1000 households and pipes constructed by World Vision in Mapoteng catchment area were washed away and this has posed a big challenge for clean drinking water. 	 PDNA estimates the total value of the effects of the heavy rains at US\$66.1 million. The disaster effects are equivalent to 3.2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and 5.2% of Gross Fixed Capital Formation. DMA will lead the annual vulnerability assessment in May/June. The updating of the VAC baseline is ongoing with the analysis almost ready. FAO to distribute winter cropping farm inputs through CERF fund which is intented to assist 5,000 famers affected by the heavy rains. The intention is to boost winter cropping (May-July) to make up for the aniticiapted poor summer production this year.











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: MADAGASCAR

Updated - May 2011

- In the South, harvest of maize and peanuts was good compared to last year.
- Price of fuel has risen by 2%.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 The National Meteorology Department is forecasting a risk of precipitation deficits in the eastern part of the island in May. Meanwhile rainfall will be near seasonal norms. In the South, locusts are about to blossom and invade the coastal side of the district of Beloha as well as some communes of Betioky Sud and Ampanihy. CNA (the National Locust Committee) in collaboration with FAO has the situation under control 	 At national level food availability remains sufficient. Harvest of rice is still ongoing in all the main producing areas. In the South, harvest of maize and peanuts was good compared to last year. 	 Rice prices have fallen compared to last month with the coming harvest of upland rice and the recurrence of the subsidized imported rice. After being nearly stable since February 2010, the price of fuel has increased by 2% in mid April. This resulted from the upward trend of crude oil at international level on the one hand and the negotiations between oil provider group and Malagasy government (lower taxes and fixing margins to offset the increase) on the other. As a result, price of transportation may increase in the coming days. Prices of other staples remain stable; however the price of kerosene fell slightly despite the rise in fuel. 	 Underweight prevalence ranges from 17.6% in <i>Diana</i> to 41.6% in <i>Vakinakaratra</i>. As the prevalence of stunting varies from 70.9% in Vakinakaratra to 27.7% in Diana. For the prevalence of severe stunting, the levels are as high as 34.4% seen in Vakinakaratra. This year, WFP School feeding ratios will be fortified by the micronutrient powder (MNP) in some schools of <i>Tsihombe</i> for a period of 100 days. 	A post distribution monitoring will be conducted within this month in the southern Madagascar where most of WFP activities are held.









Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: MALAWI

Updated - May 2011

- Harvesting of maize crops have started throughout the country and another maize production surplus is expected for the current main harvest.
- Pockets of food insecurity will persist in northern Malawi due to heavy rains and late-season flooding which occurred in march and April

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 The flood situation in the northern district of Karonga has improved. The displacements camps have been closed and people have returned to their homes. Southern Malawi, which is consistently an area of concern, has experienced dry spells for three consecutive years and will experience increasing food insecurity related to the prolonged dry spells which occurred in February and March. 	for human consumption by the Zimbabwe and South Africa	Maize is accessible in most local markets except for some households in Nsanje and Chikhwawa districts that did not harvest food in the last season and do not have (limited) income to procure from the market.	 Global Malnutrition rate is still low in the country ranging from 1% to 2.6% and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) ranged from 0.4% to 1.2% in a survey that was conducted in the southern region in July 2010. It has been estimated that malnutrition has increased to slightly higher levels but not causing worries. Since July, there have been no nutrition surveys conducted to quantify the levels of malnutrition. Reports from nutrition centres have indicated increasing cases of malaria and diarrhoea during this rainy season 	 Despite the increase in fuel prices and transport costs recently, there are no reports on increase in food prices. The MVAC will conduct a livelihoods-based food security field assessment and analysis and the results are expected in June.











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: MOZAMBIQUE

Updated - May 2011

- Overall national crop production is expected to be normal given the good harvest prospects of the northern region.
- Prices of food products are decreasing in most markets.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
Overall national crop production is expected to be normal given the good harvest prospects of the northern region, despite the crop losses that were reported in the flooded areas of the Limpopo and Zambezi River basins	 WFP Mozambique procured 10,393 MT of local products, of which 9,271 MT is maize and 566 MT is pigeon peas and 556 MT of cowpea. Between 2009-2011 WFP purchased a total of 33,664 MT of commodities for WFP programmes in Mozambique, The local produced food products are available in markets, mainly cassava and sweet potato, vegetables and fruits. 	 Food prices continue to decrease overall (especially maize and beans) but not as steeply as the previous weeks. Maize prices are generally still dropping, Out of the 20 monitored markets, the price decreased in 10 (-21% on average), unchanged in 5, and increased slightly in 4 (increased 32% in Maputo). The price of beans decreased by 14% in 9 markets, remained unchanged in 10, and increased in 4 (exception is Xai-Xai with +25%). Wheat flour on the other hand is starting to show a slow decrease. 	 MISAU, SETSAN, UN agencies and World Bank prepared a proposal for the coordination, implementation and funding of the National Plan for Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition and for the achievement of MDG 4 and 5. An Urban Vulnerability Analysis for Food Security and Nutrition (Urban VA) was conducted in December 2010 and January 2011. 	 WFP and UNHCR conducted a rapid assessment in Marretane Refugee Camp in Nampula Province to evaluate the recent food insecurity developments amongst the refugees' population. The final report has been released. From 19 to 20 of May 2011, INGC and WFP organized a Workshop to disseminate the District Profiles and District Risk Mapping Reports











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: NAMIBIA

Updated - May 2011

- Water levels continue to recede and are presently stabilizing
- Some displaced people are beginning to return to their villages.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 The flood situation in the north is improving with increased access to previously cut off areas and continued government efforts to respond to the needs of the people. Information on crops fields affected from only Oshana, Omusati and Kavango indicate that 12,278 crop fields (55,585 hectares) were destroyed. 	Generally household food security situation remains satisfactory till the next Harvest. Household food stock from last harvest said to last till next harvest with the exception of Caprivi and Kavango regions, where household are now reliant on purchases from markets or government food aid. Strategic Food Reserves in Namibia for white maize are at 4395 MT in Katima Mulilo and Rundu. Most of the domestic shortfall is covered by commercial imports.	 The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) released the latest Namibia consumer Price Index, showing that the annual inflation rate in February unexpectedly dropped from 3.5% the previous month to 3.1%. The annual rate of food price inflation in Namibia dropped further to 1.1% during the second month of 2011. The local miller will increase its prices of wheat flour and maize meal by 12.5% to 15%. The increases are in response to higher cost of the raw materials and threat on fuel increase. 	 The risk of communicable diseases outbreaks in the flood affected areas remains high due to stagnant water, poor sanitation and inadequate access to potable water. 17,635 diarrhoea cases have been reported within the period of January-April 2011 in the regions of Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Caprivi and Kavango compared to 21,997 in the same period in 2010. Twenty per cent of health outreach points remain inaccessible and a further 10% of health facilities remain completely cut-off due to inaccessible roads 	A post-disaster analysis is being planned to map out the impact of the recent floods and to determine the extent of support necessary for seriously affected people who may need continuous support for the next several months.











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: SOUTH AFRICA

Updated - May 2011

Highlights

• The expected production of maize is 10,883 million tons, which is 15% less than the 12,815 million tons in the previous season.

Agricultural Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 A significant percentage of normal to above normal rainfall for the central and eastern parts of the country was reported for April Early indications are that producers intend to plant 598 500 ha of wheat for the 2011 season which is 7.2 % more than the previous season. 	 Projected closing stock of maize for 2010/11 marketing season is 2,545 million tonnes. This increase can mainly be attributed to the higher production of maize during the 2009/10 production season. The projected closing stocks of maize for the 2011/12 marketing season is 1,318 million tons, which is the lowest total recorded since the 1,049 million tons in the 2007/08 marketing season. This represents 48.2% less than the previous season's closing stock. 	Maize prices ended lower in April 2011, as compared to April 2010. Local white maize and yellow maize prices decreased by 1.9% and 0.8% respectively, as compared to the previous month, following international price trends of commodities Local wheat and sunflower seed prices showed decreases of 2.4% and 3.6% respectively. Oil price continued to increase towards the end of April 2011, amid continued unrest in North Africa	The infant mortality rate was 49/1000 live births in 2009 (State of the World's Children report, 2009). The main cause of underfive mortality is AIDS, representing 35% of all deaths in that age group. UNICEF has supported Vitamin A campaign. Food stables fortification with vitamin A & B, iron and Zinc. Vitamin A supplementation is provided in health facilities through doses targeting 90% of 6-11 months, 80% of 12-59 months and 90% postpartum women. 8,600 individuals living with HIV/AIDS are targeted with nutritional supplements.	According to the latest Food Price Monitor by the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) - in January2011, rural consumers paid R17,55 more than urban consumers for the same food basket, a 9% increase from the R16,12 price difference reported for October 2010 in the November 2010 Food Price Monitor.











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: SWAZILAND

Updated - May 2011

- Swaziland received the Letter of Comfort from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to facilitate the securing of a US\$143 million (SZL1 billion) loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to inject into government coffers
- Fuel prices goes up again in May: Petrol increased by SZL 0.70 per litre and diesel by SZL 0.80 per litre

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 According to the preliminary seasonal forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture, there has been an increase of about 20% of the area planted, however this increase has not resulted in a direct increase in the harvest as there was only about 12% increase in harvest compared to 2009/2010 harvest. The meteorology department is expecting normal to above normal rainfall is the months of May and June. 	Food will be distributed to 20 constituencies in the country. So far 2,750MT of maize meal targeting the elderly, child headed households and people on living with chronic illnesses have been delivered by the Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) In the period of April 2011 to March 2012, a total of 75.3mt of cereal is to be imported, 47% of which is maize.	 According to the National Maize Cooperation the price of maize is still SZL 120.00 for a 50kg bag and SZL 2340.00 for a metric ton The increasing inflation rates were slightly counteracted by decreasing rates of growth in the price indices for transport tariff, utilities, gas and other fuels as well as alcoholic beverages. Fuel prices went up again in May; prices for both types of petrol (ULP 95 and LRP 95) went up by SZL0.70 per litre, while diesel went up by SZL0.80 per litre and paraffin by SZL0.40 per litre. The prices for Diesel have hit the SZL10.00 per litre mark while petrol is now SZL9.55. this was due to the significant increase in crude oil prices experienced in April 2011 	The Emergency preparedness and response unit within the ministry of Health has come out to warn the nation against diseases associated with heavy rains such as cholera. As part of the government plans for preparedness, a roadmap for mitigation has been put in place.	 Swaziland's political and socio-economic situation is in turmoil, largely as a result of the reduced financial receipts from the Southern African Custom Union (SACU). The Fiscal Adjustment Roadmap, which was endorsed by the IMF, is currently being implemented. The annual VAA starts on the 23rd May 2011 with a training followed by a two-week data collection process.









Southern Africa Regional Food Security Situation Update: ZAMBIA

Updated - May 2011

- The country has recorded another bumper harvest during the 2010/11 season recording a surplus of 1,661,626 MT. The increase has largely been attributed to increase in the area planted for small and medium scale farmers.
- Prices for the staple food commodities have remained low due to reduced demand on the markets as most populations across the country are mostly consuming their own produced staple foods.

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 The situation in the country can be described as favorable with the exception of some districts (Luangwa, Shang'ombo, Sesheke that experienced dry spells during the month of February which have recorded reduced produced of most crops during the 2010/11 season. Area planted under maize among the small and medium scale farmers has increased by 11% from last year and this is largely attributed to the Farmer Input support programme (FISP) which the government provided. Maize production for the large scale farmers reduced during the 2010/11 agriculture season and this is attributed to a saturated market as a result of last year's bumper harvest. 	Overall staple food availability on markets is still relatively good in most parts of the country especially with the increase on the consumption of own produced staples foods from the 2010/11 season.	Food security conditions are expected to remain stable due to the continued availability of surplus grain on the local market as well as increased consumption on seasonal foods such as pumpkins and sweet potatoes. Prices of maize meal have continued to decrease	According to the 2007 Zambia Demographic Health Survey 45% of children under 5 are stunted, 15% are underweight and 5% are wasted and Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection has attributed high levels of malnutrition in Zambia to inadequate dietary intake.	The crop forecasting Survey for 2010/11 agriculture season has shown that the country has recorded another bumper harvest with a production of 3,020,380 MT of maize resulting into a surplus of 1,661,626 MT.











Southern Africa Regional Food Security Update: ZIMBABWE

Updated - May 2011

- 2010-11 maize production is reportedly 9% up from the 2009-10 production while small grain production is down 19.5%.
- Some 42 out of 60 rural districts in the country will not meet their cereal requirements for the 2011-12 consumption year

Agriculture Situation	Food Availability	Food Access/Prices	Nutrition, Health and Food Utilization	Comments
 The April 2011 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment report estimates total cereal (maize, sorghum, millets) production at 1,607,700 Mt for 2010-11. The 2010-11 maize production (1,451,629 Mt) is estimated at 9% up from the 2009-10 production (1,327,572 Mt). This increase is mainly attributed to an increase in planted area (2,096,035 ha), up 16% from the 2009-10 area (1,803,542 ha) as well as better yields in the higher potential maize producing areas. Despite the reported national surplus, 42 districts will be unable to meet the cereal requirements of their rural population for the consumption year. The ZIMVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment to be conducted in May 2011 will provide finer details of the food security situation in rural areas. 	 There is reported improvement in maize grain availability both at household level and on the markets in the high potential northern districts of Mashonaland that were not affected by the dry spell. The GMB has maize stocks at most of its rural depots following the government decision to restock cereal supplies in grain-deficit areas that were hard hit by the dry spell. In April, some vulnerable households continued to receive food assistance under the WFP Safety Net programme, Distress calls for food assistance continue to be received from some local authorities and communities in some parts of the country especially in the southern districts. 	 Average rural maize grain prices have gone down in surplus producing districts (e.g. in the Mashonaland Provinces and the Gokwe districts) as cereal availability improves from the current harvest or the 2009-10 stocks being off-loaded on the market. Prices are as low as US\$0.17/kg in some districts e.g. parts of Gokwe but commonly around US\$0.28/kg. In most drought-hit southern, eastern and western districts rural maize grain prices have stabilized at high levels or even increased as most households rely on the market. Prices are commonly in the US\$0.40-US\$0.51/kg range, and even higher in some areas. The final report for 2011 ZIMVAC Urban Vulnerability Assessment carried out in March-April and expected in May will highlight the food security scenario in urban Zimbabwe. 	 Sporadic isolated cholera outbreaks are being reported in a number of districts in the country, but authorities are managing the situation. Consultations and consolidations continue in the Food and Nutrition Security Policy development process. 	 At the end of April state and independent media reported that presidential and parliamentary elections that have been expected during the year will only be conducted in 2012 or 2013. Expectations are that this may ease political tensions in various sections of society. End of April Government ordered urban local authorities to reduce the water rates and health fees to cushion consumers from the rising cost of living. This has however been received with resistance from some local authorities for viability reasons. Civil servants still await the promise for salary increases in June 2011. The Ministry of Finance insists the government has no funds for such reviews. The ZIMVAC rural livelihoods assessment is due for fieldwork in May '11.











Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the respective **country teams** from the various Agencies in providing contributions to this report. Additional information is obtained from relevant websites as reflected in the main body of the report where applicable.

CONTACT DETAILS: Merafe House, 11 Naivasha Road., Sunninghill 2157, Johannesburg, RSA

AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
FAO REOSA	Alexandros Yiannopoulos	Alexandros.Yiannopoulos@fao.org	+27 (0)82 515 9090
	Cindy Holleman	Cindy.Holleman@fao.org	+27 (0)72 614 9424
FAO GIEWS	Jonathan Pound	Jonathan.Pound@fao.org	+39 (06) 570 55626
FEWS NET	Phumzile Mdladla	pmdladla@fews.net	+27 (0)82 668 4144
	Isaac Tarakidzwa	itarakidzwa@fews.net	+27 (0) 76 592 87 38
ОСНА	Elias Mabaso	mabasoe@un.org	+27 (0)82 908 1337
UNICEF	ТВА		
WFP	Eric Kenefick	Eric.Kenefick@wfp.org	+27 (0) 82 908 1430
	Veronica Rammala	Veronica.Rammala@wfp.org	+27 (0) 5 7 634